

Tri-County Gets \$83,500 for Affordable Housing

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BRIDGETON -- The state's Department of Community Affairs has awarded a local human services agency \$83,500 in grant money to expand its affordable-housing program.

In a news release issued Friday by local state legislators, the New Jersey Office of Housing Advocacy is financing the hiring of a housing development specialist to further affordable-housing projects at the Tri-County Community Action Partnership.

The grant is designed to provide support and assistance to organizations that create and maintain a consistent production of affordable housing.

Tri-County President Al Kelly, who also serves as a Bridgeton city councilman, did not return a call Friday seeking comment.

The agency, which was designated a federal community action program in 1987, handles a \$50 million operating budget and employs more than 400 people in Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester counties.

It operates several affordable and transitional housing sites in Cumberland County, including a 125-unit senior facility in Vineland. It has also built affordable and market-rate housing units in Bridgeton and Vineland.

The agency announced earlier this year a plan to build a transitional living facility for the homeless somewhere in Cumberland County.

"New Jersey is among leading states across the country that has made statewide investments in agencies like Tri-County Community Action Partnership," said State Assemblyman John Burzichelli, D-Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem. "These agencies are committed to strengthening families and the community."